



National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Dental
and Craniofacial Research
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Residency Program in Dental Public Health

Program Description

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF TRAINING PROGRAM

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), National Institutes of Health, offers a 12-month full-time, or 12-month equivalent part-time, Residency Program in Dental Public Health. The Residency Program provides a formal training opportunity for dentists planning careers in dental public health, with an emphasis on oral and craniofacial, health-related epidemiologic research. Supervised experience in epidemiology, biometry, data processing, experimental methods, and the translation of laboratory findings into human studies is provided to develop dentists capable of engaging in productive oral health research.

The residency is intended to supplement prior public health education by providing students with an opportunity for tutorial and practical research training, supervised by experienced dental investigators. Trainees entering the NIDCR residency program will have received training in the fundamental principles of public health in their prerequisite graduate program in public health. The Residency, while emphasizing research training and oral disease prevention and health promotion, also provides experience in other areas of dental public health, e.g., public health administration and management; organization and financing of dental care programs; resource development; and advocacy for, implementation, and evaluation of public health policy.

The Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association. After finishing residency program requirements, graduates receive a certificate of completion and are qualified educationally to apply for examination by the American Board of Dental Public Health for specialty certification.

ELIGIBILITY

Qualified applicants with a DDS or DMD degree or its equivalent and a prerequisite graduate degree in public health are eligible to apply. One academic year of training leading to a graduate degree is required prior to enrollment in the NIDCR Residency Program in Dental Public Health if an applicant's public health training was completed within the United States or Canada in a program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health of the American Public Health Association (or its Canadian equivalent). Two or more years of approved, advanced education in public health leading to a graduate degree are required prior to admission if the applicant's public health training was completed outside of the United States or Canada.

DURATION AND CONTENT OF TRAINING

The residency will be conducted for a minimum period of one-year during which the resident will devote time to research-related activities of the program, as well as to fulfilling formal residency program requirements. Residents are responsible for developing a training plan at the beginning of the training year. The plan must include training objectives and time allocations for all prescribed competency areas of dental public health. In addition, residents are required to plan and conduct at least one research project and submit/defend at least one research project report of a quality suitable for publication at the completion of training.

The training program in research will be tailored to meet the particular interests and previous experience of each individual selected. However, a typical resident's effort will require that time be allocated to acquiring skills and knowledge associated with each of the following dental public health competencies:

1. *Plan oral health programs for populations.*
2. *Select interventions and strategies for the prevention of oral diseases and promotion of oral health.*
3. *Implement and manage oral health programs for populations.*
4. *Incorporate ethical standards with cultural and social sensitivity in oral health programs.*
5. *Evaluate and monitor oral health programs for population dental care delivery systems.*
6. *Design and use surveillance systems to monitor oral health.*
7. *Communicate and collaborate with groups and individuals on oral health issues.*
8. *Advocate for, implement, and evaluate public health policy, legislation, and regulations to protect and promote the public's oral health.*
9. *Critique and synthesize scientific literature.*
10. *Design and conduct population-based studies to answer oral and public health questions.*

FACULTY AND RESOURCES

The Director and Co-Director of the Residency Program are Diplomates of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Training faculty are drawn from the staff at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and elsewhere, and include epidemiologists, clinical investigators, and biostatisticians. In addition, qualified scientists in practically every area of biomedical, behavioral, and health services research are available for consultation.

The resources of the NIDCR are available to residents, as are numerous other supporting facilities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These include a large scientific computer installation, excellent medical libraries, and other research and educational services. Residents are eligible to attend the frequent seminars, guest lectures, and short courses offered at the NIH.

A limited number of stipends are available to support trainees during their enrollment in the Residency Program. No tuition or fees are assessed from trainees. Equal consideration is given to all applicants without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, or age.

APPLICATION

Application forms and additional information are available for downloading on the NIDCR website (http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/research/res_prog.asp) or by request to:

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The application deadline for Program Year 2004 – 2005 is November 20, 2003.